

CLAIMS

1. A method for teaching pronunciation and reading, comprising the
2 steps of:
 - utilizing a color coded text passage in which all letters in the text
 - 4 associated with single phoneme vowels and vowel-like sounds are represented in predetermined colors whose color name contains the same
 - 6 phoneme as the vowel or vowel-like sound that it represents, and all letters associated with vowel diphthongs having two vowel sounds are
 - 8 represented by both background color and letter character color, each color having a color name containing the same phoneme as the vowel
 - 10 sound it represents, all consonants having non-standard pronunciations are represented in predetermined colors, and all consonants having
 - 12 standard pronunciation are not color coded; and
 - teaching the pronunciation of words in said text using the color
 - 14 coding to indicate proper pronunciation.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein all silent letters in the text are colored in a predetermined color different from all other colors used to code the text.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein all silent letters in the text are converted to blank spaces.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the color coding of all letters associated with single phoneme vowels and vowel-like sounds comprises a background color for the associated letter.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein all letters associated
2 with single phoneme vowels and vowel-like sounds are removed from the
text, leaving only the background color displayed to indicate the vowel
4 sound.

6. A system for producing color coded text for use in teaching proper
2 pronunciation, comprising:

 a computer;
4 display means associated with the computer;
 the computer having input means for receiving selected text
6 passages and displaying the uncoded passage on the screen to a user;
 storage means in the computer containing a dictionary of at least
8 some commonly used words having only one pronunciation in which each
word is color coded to represent the proper pronunciation of that word;
10 a program associated with the computer for searching uncoded text
and associating any words in the text which are stored in the dictionary
12 with the corresponding color coded word and displaying the color coded
words in the text on the display means; and
14 the program further comprising means for displaying a color coding
menu on the display means for reference by the user in applying color to
16 words in the selected text passage, user control means for color coding of
letters in words which are not already stored in the dictionary, the control
18 means comprising means for associating a selected letter or group of
letters in the text with a color coding in the menu corresponding to the
20 proper pronunciation of the selected letter or group in the word in which
they are located, means for applying color to the selected letter or group
22 of letters in the displayed text according to the associated color coding,
and means for displaying the text passage with all words color coded

24 after all words have been either associated with words already stored in
the dictionary in color coded form or color coded by the user.

7. The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the color coding menu
2 includes a series of double letters representing single phoneme vowel
4 sounds and an associated colored area for each double letter, the word for
the color in each color box containing the same spoken sound as the
voiced vowel phoneme it represents.

8. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the single phoneme
2 vowel sounds are represented by the double letters "eh", "ee", "ah",
"oh", "oo", "uh", "ih", and "aa" and the associated colored areas are
4 colored red, green, auburn, orange, blue, mud, pink, and black,
respectively.

9. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein a control key for
2 application of the color coding is provided adjacent each double letter in
the menu.

10. The system as claimed in claim 9, including a keyboard for user
2 entry of data and control characters for controlling the software, the
control keys on the color coding menu comprising characters for entry by
4 a user on the keyboard to produce the corresponding color in association
with a selected letter or group of letters in the displayed text.

11. The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein operation of a control
2 key comprises means for applying the selected color as a background
color to a selected letter or group of letters in the text.

12. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the color coding menu
2 further comprises a series of letter groups representing diphthong vowel
sounds and the associated color coding for each diphthong.

13. The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein each diphthong letter
2 group in the color coding menu has a background color representing one
phoneme of the diphthong and a letter color representing the other
4 phoneme of the diphthong.

14. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein a unique keyboard
2 control character is provided in the menu adjacent each diphthong letter
group for entry by a user in order to apply the associated color coding to a
4 selected letter or group of letters in the text.

15. The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the color coding menu
2 includes a series of colored boxes representing color coding for application
to consonants in the text in words where the consonant pronunciation is
4 non-standard.

16. The system as claimed in claim 15, including means for displaying
2 alternative color coding option models for consonant pronunciation on the
screen in response to user selection of a consonant having a non-standard
4 pronunciation, whereby the user can select the appropriate coding from
the coding option model.

17. The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the program includes
2 means for entering words which have been color-coded by a user into the
dictionary.

18. The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the program includes
2 means for applying unique color coding to single and double phoneme
vowels, consonants having at least one non-standard pronunciation, and
4 silent letters in words based on the word pronunciation.

19. The system as claimed in claim 18, further comprising means for
2 providing a series of alternative color coded displays, including a first
display in which each vowel or vowel-like sound, non-standard consonant
4 sound, and silent letter in the text is color coded, and at least one
additional display in which the letters representing single phoneme vowels
6 are removed to leave only a background color box representing the vowel
sound.

20. The system as claimed in claim 19, in which silent letters are
2 removed from the text to leave blank spaces in said additional display.

21. The system as claimed in claim 19, further comprising means for
2 providing a second additional display in which the vowel color coding is
removed to display only consonant color coding, and a third additional
4 display in which the consonant color coding is removed to display only
vowel color coding.

22. The system as claimed in claim 21, including user input means for
2 controlling the display on the screen.

23. A method for converting a passage of text into the corresponding
2 text which is color coded to provide a teaching tool, the method
comprising the steps of:

4 providing a dictionary of some common words converted into
corresponding color coded words in the data base of a computer;
6 providing a color coding menu on a computer display screen for
providing information to a user on the proper color coding to be used for
8 letters based on pronunciation;
entering a conventional text passage into the computer;
10 displaying the passage on the computer display screen adjacent the
color coding menu;
12 searching the dictionary for any color coded words corresponding
to words in the entered text;
14 converting all words found in the passage which are in the
dictionary into the corresponding color coded word;
16 displaying the color coded words in the passage on the screen
along with the non-coded words not found in the dictionary;
18 for each non-coded word, selecting an appropriate color coding
from the menu for each letter or group of letters in the word apart from
20 consonants having only one possible pronunciation, based on
pronunciation of that letter or group of letters in the respective non-coded
22 word, and applying the selected color coding to the selected letters or
groups of letters in the word; and
24 after each word has been color-coded, displaying the color-coded
passage on the screen.

24. The method as claimed in claim 23, including the step of adding
2 newly color-coded words to the dictionary.

25. The method as claimed in claim 24, including means for adding
2 words having the same spelling but more than one possible pronunciation
to the dictionary.

4 26. The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the color coding menu
comprises a series of vowel and vowel-like sounds and associated colors,
6 and a series of coding colors for coding of consonants having more than
one possible pronunciation depending on the word in which they occur.

2 27. The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein at least single
phoneme vowels and vowel-like sounds are associated with colors whose
color name contains the same phoneme as the vowel or vowel-like sound
4 that it represents.

2 28. The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein all vowels and vowel-
like sounds are associated with colors whose color name contains the
same sound as the vowel or vowel-like sound it represents.

2 29. The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein double phoneme
vowels and vowel-like sounds are represented by a first color in the
background of a letter and a second color in the letter itself.

2 30. The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the color coding menu
includes an unique color for representing silent letters in words.

2 31. The method as claimed in claim 23, including the step of displaying
in the color coded text all consonant letters which have only one possible
pronunciation in the standard color assigned to the original, uncoded text.

2 32. The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the step of converting
uncoded words in the text into color coded text comprises selecting
letters corresponding to vowels or vowel-like sounds in words and
4 applying a colored background to each selected letter or group of letters

based on the sound produced by the letter or letters when the word is
6 pronounced.

33. The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising applying a
2 second color to each selected letter or letters having a diphthong sound,
in addition to the colored background, the second color being applied to
4 the letter itself, the color of the background representing one vowel sound
of the diphthong and the second color being different from the
6 background color and representing the other vowel sound of the
diphthong.

34. The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising selecting
2 consonants having non-standard pronunciations in the text and applying a
selected color to each selected consonant based on its pronunciation in
4 the word in which it occurs.

35. The method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising the step of
2 displaying non-standard pronunciation coding options to a user on
selection of a consonant in the text to enable the user to select the
4 appropriate color coding for the selected consonant based on the
pronunciation in the word in which it occurs.

36. A teaching tool for teaching pronunciation, comprising:
2 a display medium;
a selected text passage displayed on the display medium;
4 the text passage having a first unique color coding applied to all
vowel letters and letters having vowel-like pronunciation, and a second
6 unique color coding applied to all consonants having non-standard
pronunciations;

- 8 the color-coding applied to letters having vowel or vowel-like sounds comprising predetermined colors in which the word for each color
- 10 contains the same vowel sound as the vowel or vowel-like sound it represents; and
- 12 one of said color codings comprising a background color for a letter of a different color and the other of said color codings comprising a color
- 14 applied to a letter itself.